

EARLY
AMERICAN
SPORTING
BOOKS

1734—1844



By
ERNEST R. GEE



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EARLY AMERICAN
SPORTING BOOKS

1734—1844

THE
American Curs Register
AND
SPORTING MAGAZINE.

Edited by Wm T. Porter



Vol. 3 New Series. Vol. 12 Old Series.

New York.

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EARLY AMERICAN SPORTING BOOKS

1734 TO 1844

A FEW BRIEF NOTES

By
ERNEST R. GEE

WITH PORTRAITS
AND FACSIMILES



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TO MY WIFE

PREFACE

THIS little book makes no claim to be more than a brief account of the few American Sporting Books, published between the years 1734 and 1844.

When I first became interested in American Sporting Literature, I was unable to find any account of these books, but over a period of many years I have acquired most of them, and from them have learned the traditions of American Sport.

Collecting these volumes one by one, I made collations and notes, and gradually collected a great deal of information regarding their history.

One evening while dining with a sporting friend he asked me if there were any books on early sport in America. He told me that he had sought for years to obtain some information on the subject, but had not been very successful, I showed him my notes and collations, he was very much interested and said that many sportsmen would like to know about these early American books, in fact he urged me to publish the information,—hence this little volume.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the help and assistance tendered me by Mr.

Lawrence C. Wroth, who so kindly furnished me with particulars of Edward Blackwell's Compleat System of Fencing; also to Mr. Alfred B. Maclay and Mr. Louis Lee Haggin for the loan of various books and many valued suggestions.

ERNEST R. GEE.

35 East 49th Street,
New York

November 21, 1928.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------|
| CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF BOOKS | vii. |
| CHAPTER ONE | 1 |
| <i>Introductory</i> | |
| CHAPTER TWO | 6 |
| <i>The American Turf Register</i> | |
| CHAPTER THREE | 26 |
| <i>N. Y. and U. S. Sporting Magazines</i> | |
| CHAPTER FOUR | 35 |
| <i>Other Early Sporting Books</i> | |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----|--|--|--|
| ENGRAVED TITLE PAGE OF | | | | | |
| THE TURF REGISTER | Frontispiece | | | | |
| JOHN S. SKINNER | Facing page 1 | | | | |
| WILLIAM T. PORTER | " " | 4 | | | |
| WOODCUT TITLE PAGE OF | | | | | |
| THE TURF REGISTER | page 9 | | | | |
| BLUE WRAPPER OF | | | | | |
| THE TURF REGISTER | Facing page 12 | | | | |
| YELLOW WRAPPER OF | | | | | |
| THE TURF REGISTER | " " | 16 | | | |
| WRAPPER OF VOL. X., | | | | | |
| THE TURF REGISTER | " " | 22 | | | |
| WRAPPER OF THE NEW YORK | | | | | |
| SPORTING MAGAZINE | " " | 28 | | | |
| WRAPPER OF THE UNITED STATES | | | | | |
| SPORTING MAGAZINE | " " | 32 | | | |
| TITLE PAGE OF | | | | | |
| THE SPORTSMAN'S COMPANION | page 40 | | | | |
| ENGRAVED TITLE OF THE CABINET OF | | | | | |
| NATURAL HISTORY | Facing page 48 | | | | |
| TITLE PAGE OF | | | | | |
| ESSAYS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS | page 56 | | | | |
| WRAPPER OF | | | | | |
| THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE | Facing page 59 | | | | |

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF EARLY AMERICAN SPORTING BOOKS

BLACKWELL (EDWARD). THE COMPLEAT SYSTEM OF FENCING. 12mo, Williamsburg: Published by William Parks. 1734.

SECCOMBE (JOSEPH). BUSINESS AND DIVERSIONS INOFFENSIVE TO GOD, and necessary for the comfort and support of Human Society. A discourse uttered in part at Ammauskeeg-Falls in the Fishing Season 1739. by [Fluviatalis Piscator, pseud] 12mo, Boston: Printed for S. Kneeland and T. Green, in Queen Street. 1743.

THE AMERICAN FARMER, a weekly magazine. Baltimore, 1819.

THE SPORTSMAN'S COMPANION, or An Essay on Shooting, 24mo, New York: Robertson, Mills and Hicks. 1783.

RAFINESQUE (C.S.) ICHTHYOLOGIA OHIENSIS; or Natural History of the Fishes inhabiting the River Ohio and its Tributary Streams, 8vo. Lexington, Kentucky: 1820.

THE AMERICAN SHOOTER'S MANUAL. By a Gentleman of Philadelphia County. 12mo. Philadelphia: 1827.

FARMER'S, MECHANIC'S, MANUFACTURER'S AND SPORTSMAN'S MAGAZINE. By George Houston. 8vo, New York: Printed by Vanderpool and Cole, Corner of Pearl and Beekman Street. 1827.

THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER AND SPORTING MAGAZINE. 15 vols., 8vo, Baltimore and New York: 1829-44.

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES. A Weekly Sporting Paper.

Edited by William T. Porter. Folio. New York: 1831-1860.

MEMOIRS OF THE SCHUYLKILL FISHING COMPANY. By W. Milnor Jr. 8vo. Philadelphia: 1830.

MEMOIRS OF THE GLOUCESTER FOX HUNTING CLUB. By W. Milnor Jr. 8vo. Philadelphia: 1830.

THE OLIO. Collected by a Literary Traveller. 12mo, Boston: 1833.

THE CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY AND AMERICAN RURAL SPORTS. 3 volumes. 4to. Philadelphia: 1830-33.

THE AMERICAN RACE-TURF REGISTER, SPORTSMAN'S HERALD AND GENERAL STUD BOOK. By Patrick Nisbett Edgar. Vol. 1. 8vo, New York: 1833.

SMITH (V.C.). NATURAL HISTORY OF THE FISHES OF MASSACHUSETTS, embracing a practical Essay on Angling. 12mo. Boston: 1833.

THE GENERAL STUD BOOK. Containing Pedigrees of English Race Horses from the earliest Accounts to the year 1831, inclusive. With An Appendix, giving extended pedigrees of stallions imported into the United States and of their most noted Progeny. Three volumes in two. First American from the Second London Edition. 8vo, Baltimore: Published By J. S. Skinner, Editor of the American Turf Register, etc. 1834.

THE NEW YORK SPORTING MAGAZINE. Edited by Cadwalader Colden. 4to, New York: 1833-34.

THE UNITED STATES SPORTING MAGAZINE. Edited by Cadwalader Colden. 8vo, New York: 1835-36.

ESSAYS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS. Written for the Amusement of Everybody, by One who is considered Nobody. 12mo. New York: Printed by J. W. Bell, 17 Ann Street Near Broadway, 1835.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE. Edited by William E. Burton. Volume 2. From January to June. Philadelphia: 1838.

SCHREINER'S SPORTING MANUAL. A Complete Treatise on Fishing, Fowling and Hunting. 12mo. Philadelphia: 1841.

SPORTING SCENES AND SUNDRY SKETCHES: Being the Miscellaneous Writings of J. Cypress Jnr. 2 volumes. 12mo. New York: 1842.



JOHN S. SKINNER
Founder of the American Turf Register and
Sporting Magazine

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTORY

IT is now many years since I first became interested in early American sporting literature. I knew, of course, that England was rich in the literature of sport from 1486, when the celebrated "Book of St. Albans" was published, until the present day, but of American books on sport I knew none, and therefore set out to discover anything that might have been published on the subject.

One evening while in an old book shop I came across a volume lettered "American Turf Register, Vol. 1," and here was my first American Sporting Book. On reaching home I devoted the rest of the night to the perusal of this volume and found it of absorbing interest. Its Editor was one John S. Skinner of Baltimore, where the Magazine was first published in 1829. In his introduction he set forth as the object of the publication, the fact that there had been no records kept of thoroughbred horses, and that his publication was to be a register for that very object, so that gentlemen could register their horses and there would be a record of them for all time.

From the Title and Introduction it looked as if the Magazine were devoted entirely to Horses and Horse-Racing, but this was not so, as there were many interesting

accounts of Fox Hunting, Shooting and various other Field Sports that were practised in America at that time. Here was a find indeed, and in time, by diligent searching over a number of years, I got together a complete set of fifteen volumes, the last of which was published in 1844, when the publication (through non-support) came to an end.

Many prominent Sportsmen of the day contributed to its pages, including Frank Forester (who was the most accomplished writer on Sport of his day), J. Cypress Jr. (William P. Hawes), James J. Audubon, John Randolph of Roanoke, and others equally well known who contributed anonymously.

John Skinner, the founder, richly deserves the thanks of all sportsmen for his foresight in giving us a permanent record of Sport in America from 1829 to 1844. Among his personal friends were, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, General Andrew Jackson, and William Henry Harrison. Jefferson entertained him at Monticello in 1820, when he was journeying from Virginia on horseback for his health. Madison made him Postmaster of Baltimore during the war of 1812, and Munroe made him a member of the Board of Visitors to West Point.

William T. Porter, a young man from Vermont, arrived in New York about the year 1830, and went to work as a compositor in Mr. John T. West's Printing Office at 85 Chatham Street. He apparently did not stay here very long as in 1831 he founded a weekly paper entitled "THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES": a Chronicle of the Turf, Field Sports,

Literature and the Stage. He later became publisher of the *Turf Register*.

In March 1833, Cadwalader R. Colden, who was one of the closest students of the Thoroughbred, founded a rival publication entitled "*THE NEW YORK SPORTING MAGAZINE*", this was a more pretentious venture than the *Turf Register*, being quarto in size and illustrated with numerous coloured plates. The Magazine was devoted almost entirely to the Thoroughbred, but its existence was short lived, owing to lack of support from the public, and came to an end in July, 1834, after only eighteen numbers had been issued.

Mr. Colden, however, was not to be discouraged, for in November, 1835 he commenced the publication of another sporting magazine entitled "*THE UNITED STATES SPORTING MAGAZINE*". This was a continuation of the defunct New York Magazine and was produced in a more simple manner, smaller in size, illustrated with engravings (but not in colour). The venture died the following year, after only ten numbers had been issued.

After many years of research I discovered there were few books on American Sport in those early days, and among the few "*THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER AND SPORTING MAGAZINE*" stands out as the only source from which we can obtain contemporary accounts of *all* the sports of the Field as practised by our ancestors.

Not only these early magazines, but also the books of the period, are excessively scarce, and perfect copies seldom

found. In most cases they were badly printed and poor paper was used, with the consequence that the pages are stained and in many instances hardly legible. I believe that in a few years most of these books will have entirely disappeared and will be known by name only. All of them are of the utmost importance to the sportsman, student and writer, who must refer to them for information on the history of early American sport. We should all be eternally grateful to John S. Skinner, William T. Porter and Cadwalader R. Colden who were the principal writers and editors of *Sport* from 1829—1844.

Two of these important volumes have been preserved by new editions—"THE MEMOIRS OF THE GLOUCESTER FOX HUNTING CLUB" and "THE AMERICAN SHOOTER'S MANUAL"; also three stories from the *CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY AND AMERICAN RURAL SPORTS* have appeared under the name of "SOME EARLY AMERICAN HUNTERS." It is hoped that more of these books will be reprinted from time to time. The most important of them all—"THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER" should without doubt be reprinted, so that the traditions of American Sport, which are so fully recorded in this great magazine, may be preserved forever.

Just a word as to why I have chosen the dates 1734 to 1844 as the limits for the period covered in this list of books: obviously the first date represents the earliest American book on a sporting subject that I know of, while the second coincides with the discontinuance of the publication



WILLIAM T. PORTER
Driving his favourite road horse

of the *Turf Register*. In the following year, 1845, appeared the first sporting book by Frank Forester, which undoubtedly ushered in a new era in sporting literature in this country. The books of this greatest of writers on American sport, in conjunction with those of his immediate contemporaries, really form a second period in themselves, and I thought it wise therefore to choose the date 1844 as the limit for the scope of this work.

The books which I have included as belonging to the first period show a most interesting trend toward a purely American point of view in sport, as well as a gradual breaking away from the time-honored tradition of English sport. It must be borne in mind that the leading sportsmen of the time were largely of English descent, and naturally imbued with the ideals and traditions of English sport. In many of the earliest books we find a tendency for the author not only to plan his writing along the same lines as some well known British predecessor, but even to attempt to apply the latter's ideas to American conditions—sometimes with rather grotesque results. Here and there, however, we find the American writer breaking definitely away from these traditions, and striking out along new and local lines. These early strides were the forerunners of a purely American sporting literature of which the present day sportsman can be justly proud.

In the following pages, I have endeavoured to tell something of the history of these American Sporting Books, and the manner in which they were published.

CHAPTER TWO

THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER

IN the year 1819, John S. Skinner established at Baltimore an agricultural paper entitled "THE AMERICAN FARMER," which was the first agricultural paper to be published in the United States, and was very well received by the public. After a few volumes had been issued, Skinner devoted a column each week to "Field Sports," the column being headed "Sporting Olio," and containing news of horse races, and other rural sports then prevalent in America. Enthusiastically devoted to field sports, John Skinner in 1829 founded "THE AMERICAN TURF REGISTER AND SPORTING MAGAZINE." This was really an outgrowth of the Sporting Column that had appeared in *The American Farmer*.

In his introduction to Volume 1 of *The Turf Register* he says: "The Want of a Repository in this country, like the English *Sporting Magazine*, to serve as an authentic record of the performances and pedigrees of the bred horse, will be admitted by all, whether breeders, owners, or amateurs of that admirable animal. The longer we remain without such a register, the more difficult will it be to trace the pedigrees of existing stock, and the more precarious will its value become.

"Is it not, in fact, within the knowledge of many readers, that animals known to have descended from ancestry of the highest and purest blood, have been confounded with the vulgar mass of their species, by the loss of an old newspaper or memorandum book, that contained their pedigrees?"

"Sensible for years past of the danger which in this way threatens property of so much value, and persuaded that it is not yet too late to collect and save many precious materials that would soon be otherwise lost, the subscriber hopes to supply the long looked for desideratum, by the establishment of *The American Turf Register*."

In September, 1829, the first Number was issued, and it continued to be published regularly until December, 1844, completing the fifteenth volume and its existence.

With the closing number of the sixth volume (August, 1835) terminated all connection on the part of Mr. Skinner with the "*American Turf Register*" which he sold for \$10,000.00 to Mr. Pegram of Petersburg, Va., who afterwards sold it to Mr. Robert Gilmore, Jr., of Baltimore, and he in turn to William T. Porter of New York.

Besides containing pedigrees and records of horses, it was also designed as a magazine of information on veterinary subjects generally, and on various rural sports, such as racing, shooting, hunting, fishing, trotting matches, etc., together with original sketches of the natural history and habits of American game of all kinds.

Like the "*American Farmer*," it was commenced without a single subscriber, and, although the subscription was

\$5.00 per annum, it soon had a large list of patrons with whom it was deservedly popular.

The real value of the magazine was seen when horses whose pedigrees it established, rose in value from \$1.00 to \$5,000 and even \$10,000.

The American Turf Register is the earliest publication to give us authentic knowledge of the breeding and performances of the thoroughbred horse in America, and most of the information is obtainable no where else,—it is the SOURCE BOOK, and all present day writers must refer to this great work.

With the seventh volume a new regime began. According to the title-page, the Editor was Allen J. Davie, and it was published for the Proprietor by Gideon B. Smith. Mr. Davie apparently only edited the one volume, as Vol. 8 reads: "Edited and Published for the Proprietor By Gideon B. Smith."

No numbers were issued for June, August, October and December, and the reason for this is given in the January number of Vol. 9, where the Editor says: "The pressure of the times made it very convenient to publish but once in two months, during the suspension of specie as well as paper payments. This suspension on the part of our subscribers caused a partial suspension on our part. The convenience to ourselves as well as our subscribers, of commencing the year and volume on the first of January, must be apparent to all, and we hope will give satisfaction."

The ninth volume was issued regularly each month, but



VOL. III.

BALTIMORE:

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY J. S. SKINNER.

J. D. FRY, PRINTER.

1872.

Facsimile of Woodcut Title used on first nine volumes

with no illustrations, subscriptions had fallen off and fewer copies were printed, so that now volume nine is an exceedingly difficult one to obtain.

With the tenth volume, *The American Turf Register* passed into the hands of William T. Porter, and the publication was removed from Baltimore to New York.

The following interesting letter from John S. Skinner printed at the beginning of Volume 10 introduces William T. Porter to his readers:

Baltimore Post Office,
1st March, 1839.

To Wm. T. Porter, Esq.

My dear Sir:—Right glad am I to have my favorite hobby—the old “*Turf Register*”—fall under your care. It was the first of its race ever bred in the United States. Its natural history is remarkable, as it had but one sire and no dam; when it was foaled it was not certain where or whether it would find food or pasture.

It was thrown upon the wide world, without any guarantee of corn or long fodder—but being watched with care, and sent out once a month on short excursions, for air, exercise and exhibition, the friends of its founder, far and near, who had been previously taught by him to make good crops, most kindly and generously petted and pampered the young hobby,—sending it an ample supply of provisions, until it grew, in four or five years, to be a nag of good size and full of spirit.

But like all things excellent, in this enterprising Yankee

nation, in the progress and "spirit of the times" it met its rival! Passing from one hand to another, it has happily ceased to run the race "antagonistical" by being led, where old "Napoleon," sends all that he can't beat, into the same stable with its competitor; here I sincerely hope, both will long live in the best condition.

The "Spirit of the Times" may do the light skirmishing to amuse the crowd, while the more ponderous "Register" is reserved for more serious work; as Monarch is held back, for the four mile day, by a nobler man than any monarch that lives.

As I have some right to know what will suit the old horse's constitution and temper, should he ever show signs of getting amiss, and you may imagine that his old groom can suggest anything to bring him right, you must not fail to call on his and your friend and humble servant.

J. S. SKINNER.

The tenth volume began with three double numbers comprising, January and February, March and April, May and June, and from then on the regular monthly number was issued on the first of each month. Mr. Porter appealed to Sportsmen to contribute articles of interest to the magazine, and also reprinted some of the best things that appeared in the English Sporting Journals. He also substituted an engraved title-page by E. Landseer for the old Wood-cut Title that had been used for the first nine volumes and rearranged the Racing Calendar, issuing it as an Appendix at the end of

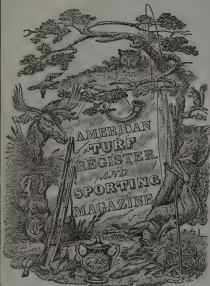
the volume instead of part of the regular text as heretofore. In this volume was issued also The English Racing Calendar for 1839, the only English Calendar issued throughout the fifteen volumes.

With this volume Frank Forester began to write for The Turf Register, and his articles "A Week in the Woodlands," "Spring Snipe Shooting" and "Precept and Practice" were afterwards published in book form by G. B. Zeiber and Co. in 1845 as "THE WARWICK WOODLANDS" one of the rarest of all American sporting books.

He also contributed "A Wolf Hunt on the Warwick Hills" and "A Trip to Chateau Richer," or "Snipe Shooting on the Saint Lawrence," and numerous other articles. J. Cypress Jnr., also became a Contributor and his "A Week on the Fire Islands on Long Island" appeared here for the first time. J. J. Audubon is represented with "The Prairie" in volume twelve; also an article on Deer Hunting. With the fifteenth volume the last number of which was published December 1844, The Turf Register came to an end.

The first monthly number issued in September 1829 had a blue wrapper with a fine sporting device, designed by Rindisbacher, engraved on wood by Butler and was used for the first nine volumes; also the title-page for these volumes bore the same design.

The wrapper for volume two, while bearing exactly the same design, was printed on a light brown paper. Mr. Skinner evidently experimented with this colour and not liking



BALTIMORE:

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY J. B. SKINNER.

J. D. TAY, PRINTER.

3 SHEETS.—POSTAGE.—100 miles and under 4½ cents;—over 100 miles 6 cents.

Facsimile of Wrapper of Monthly Parts used for first nine volumes.

it again reverted to the blue for volume three, and this was used until the end of volume nine, when the magazine became the property of William T. Porter, who changed both the cover design and title-page.

In volume one there are articles on "Washington as a Sportsman" by George W. P. Custis, "Instructions for Training" by Charles Duval, Foxhunting, Angling, Shooting, etc., also an interesting account of The Richmond "Barbecue or Quoit Club" the oldest club of its kind in the United States, founded in 1788.

Among the illustrations are engraved portraits of many famous horses,—The Godolphin Arabian, Duroc, Sir Archy, also the famous Greyhound Spring, a view of the Castle of the State in Schuylkill, Buffalo and Prairie-Wolves by Rindisbacher and numerous others.

The Racing Calendar appears at the end of each month under the heading of Sporting Intelligence and in volume two under the heading of Racing Calendar for which there is a separate index, and in this form it continued until the Magazine was taken over by William T. Porter. There were Letters and Articles on every branch of Sport contributed by subscribers each month, many of them of great interest, being their own personal experiences. Much space was devoted to Foxhunting, describing the famous runs and incidents of the Chase, and the following letter printed in the January 1830 number, will give an idea of how they hunted a hundred years ago.

FOX HUNTING IN FAIRFAX, VA.

Mantua, November 17th, 1829.

Mr. Editor:

I received a letter, yesterday, from our friend G., who apologizes for not visiting me on Thursday last to hunt. We have killed thirteen foxes, three reds and ten greys, and as yet have never missed a fox that we have unkenneled.

I have only been unsuccessful in finding one or two days during the season. Foxes are however, very scarce in this quarter, and, with the exception of Ravensworth, we have to hunt at a distance of eight or ten miles. Those on Ravensworth, (and one which has taken shelter almost immediately under my own wing), are reserved for the sport of Capt. T. Gen. G. Major D., and our other friends who may visit us. The red fox which has earthed near to me, I cannot consent shall be killed, as I hope for a prolific brood of staunch fellows from that den, and it really begins to be time here to preserve our game, or otherwise in a season or two we shall have to give up the Sport, and this would be to us no ordinary privation. Sally Walker is two years old in March next, and has proven himself in the last runs we have had, not inferior to any dog in the pack of sixteen.

C.

There are many interesting letters and articles on falconry, hunting the deer, shooting and descriptions of numerous horse races. In April, 1831, is a long communication by J. Fenimore Cooper on Taming Wild Horses, in which he also corrects an historical error, as to the life of

Washington being in the power of British Riflemen at Brandywine.

With the tenth volume, the Register was removed to New York and issued from the office of "The Spirit of the Times" under the able editorship of William T. Porter who as a turf-writer was without a rival in this country, or even in England.

The old wrapper of the monthly parts was discarded and a more elaborate design substituted, and Mr. Porter also used a new title-page for the yearly volumes, this was a design by E. Landseer of a group of sporting dogs engraved by Dick. The first number contained one hundred and twenty pages of valuable matter, to which the new Editor contributed an "Introduction," an article on Trout-fishing, the pedigree and performances of Harkaway, and a splendid essay on English Eclipse.

In 1840 William Henry Herbert began his connection with "The Turf Register" with a series of Sketches entitled "A Week in the Woodlands," his first work on Sport, and using for the first time his now well known nom de plume of Frank Forester.

Another contributor of note was William P. Hawes, better known as J. Cypress, Jnr, with his "A Week at the Fire Islands on Long Island" duck shooting, and other Sketches of great interest, also "A Few Interesting Incidents in the Terrestrial existence of a Young Man who used to like horses" which was printed in February 1843, some time after his death. An interesting item of news appears under

notes of the month in July 1843, referring to the exporting of red Foxes to England: "Exportation of Foxes to England!—Mr. Bache, of this city, sent out in the packet ship 'George Washington' lately, a number of red Foxes to Mr. Joseph Wood, the vocalist. Another lot is to be sent to the Duke of Richmond. The varmint were caught in the Highlands of the Hudson, and are of an unusually large and stout breed—capable of standing up before hounds for forty miles."

The red fox was supposed to have been imported to this country from England in 1779 and it is quite interesting to think that America was exporting them sixty-four years later.

The racing calendar continued to be issued as an appendix with title-page and separate index until the end of the thirteenth volume, but for the fourteenth and fifteenth volumes Mr. Porter reverted to the old way of issuing it as part of the text each month.

I believe that I can best illustrate the scope and character of the *Turf Register* by quoting several articles and letters, chosen at random from its pages.

REMARKABLE RACE IN NORTH CAROLINA BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Mr. Editor: Landsford, August 27, 1831.

Perhaps an account of the quarter racing in North Carolina, previous to the Revolution, may serve to amuse some of your numerous readers.



BALTIMORE:

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY J. S. SKINNER.

J. D. TAY, PRINTER.

34 SHEETS—Postage—100 miles and under, 4 cents,—over 100 miles 3½ cents.

Facsimile of Wrapper used for the Parts of Volume 2.

About the year 1770, a large family, named Sh—d, lived in Dobbs county; they had acquired property and influence; were fond of, and had introduced, a spirit of racing into that part of the state; they were able to purchase good horses, and success in their matches with the less wealthy, had given them great confidence in their skill. About this time they owned a horse called the Blue Buck, who beat all his competitors, until his owners, and the people of Dobbs looked on him as invincible. This horse Blue Buck, was bred on Roanoke, where his speed had been accurately tested, before he was sent to Dobbs. Just at this time, a Scotch Gentleman named Henry, established a store in Dobbs; he carried with him a small handsome saddle horse, of the Janus stock, on which he seemed, by his care, to place a high value—and boasting much of his speed. As Henry seemed to be a raw young Scot, Mr. Sh—d, thought it a fine chance to win a store, he bantered Henry to run his saddle horse, (riding Blue Buck) at the time, against his, for one hundred pounds, offering as his horse was much the largest, to carry 160 lbs. to a feather; on these terms the race was made, time fixed and money staked; in a few days, Capt. E. H. from Northampton, arrived to train Henry's horse. In a little time, they had betted the whole amount of Henry's store—the goods boxed to be delivered to the winner. The evening of the day preceding the race, Mr. W. J., Col. J. H. and Mr. T. E. with some other gentlemen, arrived from Halifax, and some wagons.

On the day of the race all the Dobbs seemed to collect

at the polls, confident in the speed, and willing to back their old favourite; and after their money was exhausted, negroes, horses and oxen were staked on the race, the gentleman of Halifax taking all bets, offered against the little horse.

When all was arranged, away they started at full speed, and in a few minutes the race was decided in favour of the small horse, in such a manner as to leave no grounds for dispute.

The wagons were drawn up—Henry's store already packed up, was put on board of them, when all hands took up the line of march for Halifax, carrying with them all that Dobbs could well spare. This movement was thought prudent at the time, as the commons of Dobbs seemed as though they would not peaceably abide their loss. And the purpose for which the store had been established, was now answered.

The little horse was called Trickem, was by old Janus, and was well bred. He was 13 hands $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, and weighed when in condition to run 890 lbs., and as the property of Mr. W. J. was again a winner of an interesting race, and for a large amount; the particulars of which, I may one day give you.

Of all those who attended that race from Halifax, none are now living, but the rider, now an old man, he was a slave of Gen. A. Jones, and was so small as to weigh about 50 lbs. at the time.

Yours,

D.

FLY FISHING AND WOODCOCK EATING!

Extract—dated Aug. 23, 1833.

Mr. Editor:

The trout afforded me fine sport when in Pennsylvania. They have greatly increased in numbers and doubled in size: indeed, it was a rare thing to take a small or indifferent fish. A fly with a cream colored wing, over a rust colored body—the sun low in the horizon, or behind a cloud, and I was certain of from six to thirty, two-pound trout, within the hour.

Woodcock were not so very plenty; but they were in numbers sufficient to give good sport, and good eating, too. With three brace of fat trout well boiled, and six or eight brace of woodcock cooked to a turn, a party could not fail to make a hearty dinner.

What fly fisher is that in your last number, who wants to know where flies are to be found, Etc.?

RIFLE SHOOTING—A piece of plate, value \$50 will be shot for with rifles, 100 yards, arms' length, in December next, on the Central race course, near Baltimore. The competitors to be arranged in two parties;—the best shot to take the plate, and the losing party to pay for dinner and club.—Particulars hereafter.

This early notice is given, that Col. Crocket and other members of congress, either from North Carolina or the west, may bring on their crack rifles, and have no excuse if beaten by Pennsylvania or Maryland.

GOOD SHOOTING

A GOOD SHOT.—In the English and American Sporting Magazines, we frequently read of surprising performances in shooting, both in the number of birds killed, and the succession of shots without missing. At this moment, there are no particular facts that occur to me—but I am inclined to think, that there is nothing to be found in those publications, which, in the succession of killing shots, has surpassed the performance of Mr. B. of Framingham, who some time in the month of September last, killed and bagged one hundred and nine woodcocks in cover, out of one hundred and eleven shots. Perhaps, however, some instance may be produced of a greater number of shots in succession, as he had killed about fifty before he missed, but it is doubtful whether there is any authentic record of but two birds missed out of one hundred and eleven shots. When it is considered how difficult it is to shoot in cover in this country, particularly in woodcock ground, in the midst of thick alders and birches, and before the leaves have fallen—this must be considered wonderful shooting indeed: but Mr. B. is not less remarkable for his sagacity in finding his game than his success in shooting it; few ornithologists have a better knowledge of the habits of the feathered tribe. It has long been remarked by an English Sportsman, that it is a sufficient entertainment to go over the ground with him without shooting one's-self, and I have often noticed the deadly effects of his shots upon the birds which seem instantly deprived of life, compared to inferior shots, who do

but wing tip their game. If a bird flies, he knows exactly where to look for him. If he is hit without falling, he either says "that bird will get away," or "wherever he has fallen, we shall find him dead." But it is not only birds, for rabbits, squirrels and muskrats share the same fate, and it is death for any living thing to cross his path. Those who know and esteem the character of Mr. B. are aware that he would rather shun than seek a trial of skill, yet, such is their confidence in his superiority, that he could be backed against any other shot in the United States.

8.

COPY OF THE SPORTING JOURNAL OF N. S. J., Esq.

October 7.—Tuesday—went shooting on Martin's place about two and a half miles from town, (in the Necks) the day was clear and pleasant; had along dogs Moreau and Milo; commenced hunting on Curtain's branch, where I saw two woodcocks, but could not get a shot at them, as they always got up on the opposite side of the branch to me. Hunted along down on Finley's Canton field; put up one covey of partridges, out of which I got four, but not being full grown I left them—went on to Martin's place, and put up four coveys, out of which I got twenty-one well grown birds; but was much annoyed by four gunners, who kept dogging after me, and would run after the birds as soon as they saw where they pitched. I gave two of the most forward ones, an invitation to come along side and shoot with me, which they accepted of, and on the birds

getting up, they both fired and missed; at the same time I brought down a bird with each barrel, the birds going in different directions—they then concluded it was no use for them to try it with me on the “wing”—when they left me, and went crawling about to get setting shots, in which they succeeded in getting two partridges.

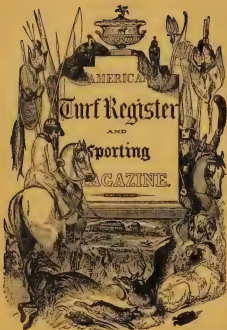
SPORTING INTELLIGENCE

THE CHASE

January 3rd, 1830.

Mr. Editor:

Messrs. Terret's, Chichester's, and Darnes's hounds met at the Pines on New Year's day to hunt Ravensworth and the neighboring grounds; and a more beautiful district for that delightful sport is not to be found. The country is clear and open, with here and there a copse of wood, or pine thicket, and little or no fencing for miles. From the number and respectability of the field of well mounted horsemen, and the number, beauty, and condition of the hounds, it is evident that fox hunting has lost none of its charms in Fairfax county. Twenty-one horsemen and twenty-one couple of hounds, were at the place agreed upon, at the appointed hour. The pack was thrown off West of the Winchester turnpike; unkenneled a red fox in ten minutes, and drove him at a slashing rate to the centre of Ravensworth; where after a quick succession of doubles, over ground stained by sheep, he was run into and killed; giving us a splendid chase for forty-five minutes. The fox was taly'd every five min-



FOR NOVEMBER, 1839.

NEW YORK, EDITED BY WM. T. PORTER, AND PUBLISHED BY THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES OFFICE,
CORNER OF BROADWAY AND NASSAU STREET

Price 43 per annum, in Advance.

*Facsimile of Wrapper for Monthly Parts used
by Wm. T. Porter on Volumes 10 to 15.*

utes, and the pack was constantly in our view. In less than an hour after the fox harbour cover was drawn, two red foxes were unkenneled. Thirteen couple went away with one, and eight couple with the other; and both sets of dogs killed their fox in fine style. The first in one hour and thirty minutes; the second in less than two hours. Before parting for the night, it was agreed to hunt next day; and, accordingly, we had the same field and the same hounds. A red fox was found, and run to earth in little more than an hour; another killed in one hour and fifty minutes. This last chase was like the first—a straight run of some miles, closing with a quick succession of doubles, over pasture grounds, the fox tally'd every five minutes, and the pack constantly in view. Thus ended two days sport, rarely equalled in the annals of the chase; and wanting nothing but an uniform dress to give it all the splendour of an English fox hunt, and render it worthy of the pen of a Somerville or a Beckford.

The writer will not speak of the welcome which awaits the stranger's arrival in Fairfax county; nor of the ample board and ample bowl;—they are in keeping with the good days of lang syne.

Notes of the month for September 1839, the following news is given:

MR. STEVEN'S YACHT.—On the 27th July, Mr. John C. Stevens of this city, launched one of the most beautiful specimens of American Naval Architecture ever seen in our waters. Her tonnage is 195 tons, and her cost about

\$35,000. Her masts were hoisted in on the 21st ult, at the U. S. Navy Yard, Brooklyn. She has been built expressly with a view to test the sailing qualities of the British Royal Yacht Squadron, from a model of Mr. S's, and under his personal instructions, and will be fitted up magnificently.

With December 1844, the American Turf Register came to an end, the expense of making the fine engravings and the unwillingness of subscribers to pay their subscriptions, made it impossible for Mr. Porter to continue, and the following notice appeared in the December Number.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The present number of "The American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine" completes its fifteenth volume and, at the same time, its existence.

With a list of subscribers amply sufficient to defray the expenses of its publication, the Publisher is imperiously obliged to discontinue it, upon the sole ground of their neglect to pay their subscriptions. Hundreds of the "patrons" of this magazine have paid no subscription for years! To those gentlemen who have supported and encouraged him by a prompt discharge of their dues annually, the Publisher begs to express his grateful acknowledgments.

He desires to announce to Breeders and Turfmen who have been in the habit of registering pedigrees of Blood Stock, etc., that the columns of the "Spirit of the Times" will be open to them without charge for that or a similar

purpose. And those subscribers to the "Turf Register" who have not been Subscribers to the "Spirit of the Times," are apprised that in the latter they will find not only all the reading matter of the Magazine, but a good variety of Agriculture, Sporting, Literary, and Miscellaneous information, not included in it. The "Spirit of the Times" is published every Saturday, at the price of the "Turf Register,"—is one of the largest papers in the United States, and is so generally known throughout the world as not to require, the Publisher believes, any detailed statement of its scope or peculiar character, as the acknowledged organ and "Chronicle of the Sporting World."

And so this great Sporting Periodical died and all we have left are a few badly stained volumes—some lacking plates, others title-pages and racing calendars. Of complete sets (and by that I mean sets with every title-page and engraving, every page of text and all the racing calendars complete with their indexes) I know but three. In the near future I hope that the sportsmen of America will come to realize the inestimable value of this periodical, and that a new edition may be born, so that the traditions of American Sport will be worthily preserved for all time.

CHAPTER THREE

NEW YORK SPORTING MAGAZINE, AND U. S. SPORTING MAGAZINE

THE NEW YORK SPORTING MAGAZINE was launched in March, 1833, and by this time four volumes of The Turf Register had already been published and John Skinner was increasing the number of his Subscribers rapidly.

The New York Magazine was founded and edited by Cadwallader R. Colden, who was one of the closest students of all that relates to the Race Horse. His opinions were held in high esteem and quoted with warm approval by both John Skinner and William T. Porter.

There is no doubt that the "Turf Register" gave Colden the idea of publishing a Sporting Magazine, and he set out to do it in a very handsome way.

In his introduction to the first number, he says—"The existence of a work of this kind, already published by J. S. Skinner, Esq. of Baltimore, and, that too, with praiseworthy zeal, would deter the Proprietor from the present undertaking, were he not persuaded that the wide range of country embraced by the different sections of the Union, the unprecedented increase of population in the Southern

and Western States, the manifest and various opportunities to partake of Field Sports, the increasing disposition to propagate the thorough-bred-horse, and the growing taste for the turf, afforded sufficient room for another publication, somewhat similar, yet more strictly upon the plan of the English Sporting Magazine."

The Magazine is quarto in size, printed in double columns and illustrated with finely coloured plates of celebrated horses. In the preliminary pages of the first number are given Turf Rules and Regulations, Rules for Racing in general, and Rules and Orders of the English Jockey Club, Lengths of the Newmarket Courses and abbreviations used in the English and American Racing Calendars.

Each number deals almost entirely with the horse, letters from correspondents, and reprinted items from the most representative English Sporting papers.

Nimrod's "Condition of Hunters" is reprinted from the English Sporting Magazine, also his Essay on "The Road," and at the end of each month are the English and American Racing Calendars.

Mr. Colden, like John Skinner, had difficulty in collecting subscriptions, and notices would appear from time to time on the wrappers of the monthly numbers, reminding subscribers that they had not paid their subscriptions. The following notice appeared on the wrapper of No. 3.

NOTICE: "Gentlemen who have received either the first or second number of this Magazine, and who have not already subscribed, are respectfully requested to inform the

Proprietor should they decline becoming Subscribers: those who do not, will be considered as having subscribed."

From the above notice it would seem that the first two numbers were sent out to certain Sportsmen on the chance that they would become Subscribers.

A further notice says, "Postmasters having charge of any Office, from which the person, to whom this Magazine may be addressed, has not taken it, are requested to return the same to the Proprietor."

The coloured illustrations for the Magazine are of great interest, some of them are really beautiful and are some of the earliest coloured Sporting Prints made in America. The plates were issued separately if desired, as the following notice explains: "Subscribers who wish to procure an extra set of our Plates, detached from the Magazine, may have proof impressions, coloured in a superior manner, upon fine India Paper, sent with the numbers." These separate issues of the plates I have never seen, and the probability is that very few were issued. The Magazine continued to be published regularly each month until February 1834, this number being No. 12 and completing volume one.

A notice on the wrapper of the twelfth part says: "We now lay before our Subscribers this, the twelfth number, which completes the first volume. Sensible that the Sporting part of the Community, and the supporters of the turf in particular, required a work of the kind, we entered upon the undertaking without having a single Subscriber or the promise of the most trivial contribution to our pages, trust-

ing wholly to our own resources for matter, and confiding in the wonted liberality of Sportsmen for the full extension of that indulgence which a Novice could not fail to require.

"Not conversant with the duties of an Editor, or with aught in relation to printing, publishing, drawing, painting, engraving or colouring, unexpected obstacles present themselves, which inexperience could not guard against, and which having occurred, could not be surmounted without producing delay; we have, however, the full hope and belief that the experience we have acquired will enable us to prevent a similar occurrence in future.

"Our second volume will commence with June, and will be issued regularly every month.

"There will no loss accrue to subscribers by this arrangement, as their subscriptions to the second volume will take date from that of the first number."

The venture did not meet with the encouragement that was anticipated, but Colden was determined to go on with the publication, and issued the first number of the second volume in July, 1834. It was published each month until December, 1834, and then came to an abrupt end. Mr. Colden did not get the support he was entitled to, and had much hard luck, some of it perhaps due to inexperience in publishing.

A fire destroyed all the back numbers which had been published of volume one and two, together with a large amount of printed and manuscript copy, including a copi-

ous index to Volume One. This was the last straw and he was forced to stop publishing.

He was by no means beaten, as in November 1835 he commenced to issue another Magazine, entitled—“THE UNITED STATES SPORTING MAGAZINE.” This was intended as a continuation of “The New York Sporting Magazine,” and in the first number, in his Address to the Public, he says:

“In offering this work to the Public, and more especially to the Subscribers to the late New York Sporting Magazine, and Annals of the American and English Turf, we would remark, that, though somewhat varied in form and title, it is intended as a continuation of and substitute for that periodical, which we think, an essential improvement in appearance, and a great reduction in price, without materially decreasing the quantity of matter.

“In explanation of the abrupt discontinuance of our late magazine, we would mention, that in one of the extensive fires which occurred during the past Summer in New York, we had the misfortune to lose nearly all the back numbers which had been published of the first and second volumes, together with a large amount of printed and manuscript copy, including a copious index to Vol. 1, which had cost us much time and labour to complete, and many valuable and useful works on subjects connected with our publication . . . Thus disabled from supplying a new subscriber with the current or preceding volume, and left to choose between reprinting the whole work, or commence a new series, we have preferred the latter.”

This magazine like its predecessor was devoted almost entirely to the Thoroughbred. In the first number we have a well written memoir of TRIFLE, with a complete list of his Performances; Thoughts on Blood Horses, continued from the old New York Magazine, written by Mr. Colden under his nom de plume of "An Old Turf Man"; a full description of the First Fall Meeting at Trenton, New Jersey on the Eagle Course, September 1835, and the New York Races—First October Meeting at Union Course, Long Island.

There was also an interesting Article on The Field Sports of Western India, continued from the New York Magazine, signed "Deccan."

Each number had an engraved plate, usually of a celebrated horse, with a memoir and list of his performances, and at the end of Vol. 1 are the American and English Racing Calendars for 1834 and 1835.

The sixth number (April, 1836) completed the first volume, and the following month the first number of the second volume was issued. In this number, in "A Few Words by way of Preface, to this our Second Volume," Mr. Colden takes the opportunity to return sincere acknowledgment for the very cordial reception which the first volume had met with. It looked as if the Magazine were now on a sound basis, but only four numbers were issued, and it came to an abrupt end in August, 1836.

THE UNITED STATES SPORTING MAGAZINE was issued in monthly numbers beginning in November 1835 and con-

tinuing each month until August 1836, the wrappers were green in colour and the contents of each number were printed on the inside of the front cover. On the front cover it is described as a work entirely dedicated to Sporting Subjects and Fancy Pursuits, containing Racing, Trotting, Breeding, Training, Riding, The Stable, The Kennel, Shooting, Pedestrianism, Fishing, Cocking, Pugilism, Rowing, Sailing.

I have looked carefully through the ten numbers but fail to find anything relating to Fishing, Cocking, Pugilism, Rowing or Sailing. There are one or two articles referring to Dogs and Shooting, and the rest of the Magazine is devoted entirely to the Thoroughbred.

Mr. Colden died in May 1839 and the following notice appeared in the *Turf Register* for June 1839:

"We are called upon to record in this number of the *Register*, the death of Mr. Cadwallader R. Colden, who expired on the 17th inst., after a short illness, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. The readers of this Magazine hardly need a further notice of this gentleman, than to be reminded of his Authorship of the papers which appeared under the signature of 'An Old Turfman.' His peculiar notions of horses, and his nervous fluent style of composition, have long ago given him a distinguished celebrity as a writer on sporting subjects.

"When he withdrew his contributions from the Magazine, having enriched its earlier volumes with articles of great interest and value, he established a magazine of his own in New York, on a more costly plan than any which

THE UNITED STATES
SPORTING MAGAZINE,
AND ANNALS OF THE
AMERICAN AND ENGLISH TURF.

Vol. II. JULY, 1886. No. 9.

A WORK ENTIRELY DEDICATED TO
Sporting Subjects and Fancy Pursuits.

CONTAINS THE
Sports of the day, and every thing worthy of notice in relation thereto
occurring in the United States, Canada and Europe.

| | | |
|----------|---------------|----------|
| RACING | THE STABLE | FISHING |
| TROTTING | THE KENNEL | COCKING |
| BREEDING | VETERINARY | FUGLESH |
| TRAINING | SHOOTING | ROWING |
| RIDING | PEDESTRIANISM | SAILING. |

Illustrated with Engravings and Striking Representations of Various Subjects.

EDITED BY C. R. COLDEN:

To whom all communications (Post-paid) are to be addressed.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY SCOTT & CO. JOHN AND GOLD-STREETS.

Price, Three Dollars per volume of Six Numbers.

4 sheets (64 pages) Postage 100 miles and under $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per sheet, over 100
miles $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per sheet.

had before been seen in this country. The sale of the work not reaching the extent of his wishes he abandoned it, after several months, or rather merged it into another and smaller work, which reached, we believe, two volumes, before its publication was suspended. More recently, and just before his death, he had projected a third work, the plan of which, uniting a Magazine with a weekly paper, he had long cherished as alone feasible. He did not live to see the publication of the Magazine; a single number of the paper appeared before his death, but illness had interrupted his labours upon that number, which gave no evidence of his vigorous thinking.

"The turf is indebted to Mr. Colden for originating and successfully establishing enclosed Race Courses at the North, whence the plan has subsequently been so extensively adopted throughout the country. There was no limit to the enterprise of Mr. Colden in projecting Courses. At one time he established a track even in Vermont, where excellent purses were put up for public competition.

"He was once largely engaged in Agriculture, and the large fortune which he inherited, was impaired in his extensive operations. As a breeder, he was not successful, although he had often upon his estate an immense number of horses. Nor was he fortunate in Racing, and he used often to say, his writings owed their principal value to his severe lessons of experience.

"The favorite principle which he laboured to establish, and did establish, is, that 'Blood will tell,'—that 'nothing

but the thoroughbred do it quite well.' He insisted upon purity in your stock of horses with unyielding pertinacity, and his lessons have proved widely useful. He advocated the importation of English stock with warmth, and foretold the success of the produce of such importations, upon the Turf."

CHAPTER FOUR

OTHER EARLY AMERICAN SPORTING BOOKS

THE first book on Sport I am able to trace, as having been published in America, is a treatise on Fencing by Edward Blackwell, entitled "A COMPLEAT SYSTEM ON FENCING: or The Art of Defence, in the use of the Small-Sword. Wherein the most necessary parts thereof are plainly laid down; chiefly for Gentlemen, Promoters and Lovers of that science in North America. Shewing how necessary it is for all Gentlemen to learn it. In a dialogue between Master and Scholar. By Edward Blackwell, late Master of that Science. Williamsburg: Printed by William Parks. 1734."

In a leaf of advertisement, William Parks the publisher, states that Edward Blackwell had died before the completion of the publication of the book, and that it was now printed for the benefit of his widow and children.

The volume is dedicated "To Lovers of Fencing in North America" and signed—Edward Blackwell.

Only two copies of this work seem to be recorded, one in the British Museum and the other in The John Carter Brown Library at Providence, Rhode Island.

According to Mr. Lawrence C. Roth, of the latter library, the source of this book was Henry Blackwell's "The

English Fencing-Master: or, the Compleat Tutor of the Small Sword," first published in London 1702 and republished in 1705. Henry Blackwell was probably the father of Edward. The American book is an enlargement, with American references, of the material contained in the London book of 1705. The American material in the book, however, is sufficient to justify one in regarding it as an entirely different publication from the early London editions.

The second work relating to Sport, was a Discourse by one Joseph Seccombe, who signed himself "Fluviatulis Piscator" entitled "BUSINESS AND DIVERSION INOFFENSIVE TO GOD, and necessary for the comfort and support of human Society. A Discourse utter'd in Part at Ammauskeeg-Falls, in the Fishing Season. 1739. Boston. Printed for S. Kneeland and T. Green in Queen-Street. 1743."

The Pamphlet is Dedicated as follows:

To The Honourable
THEODORE ATKINSON, Esq;
and others
The Worthy Patrons of the Fishing
at
AMMAUSKEEG.

Gentlemen,

It's not to signify to others that I pretend to an Intimacy with you, or that I ever had a share in those pleasant Diversions, which you have innocently indulged yourselves in, at the Place where I have taken an Annual Tour for some

years past. Yet I doubt not but you'll Patronize my intention, which is to sence against Bigottry and Superstition. All Excess I disclaim, but pretend to be a Favourer of Religion, and of Labour as an ingredient, and of Recreation as a necessary attendant.

I believe the Gentlemen who moved me to preach there in some odd Circumstances, and those at whose desire and charge this Discourse is printed, (asking their pardon if my suggestion appear to them ungrounded) were moved more from the uncommonness of the thing, than any thing singular in it. I have put off the importunity for near these three years; but least it should be, that I fear, it's being seen by the World, I submit it to sight and censure.

So little as I know you, Gentlemen, I heartily present it to you, tho' all the reason that I intend to offer is, we have fished upon the same Banks: and tho' I know this will be no Bait, I am fond of being esteemed, in the Affair of Fishing,

Gentlemen,
Your most Obedient
and very humble servant
FLUVIATULIS PISCATOR.

Apparently Joseph Seccombe was in the habit of spending his vacation at Ammauskeeg-Falls where he met the gentlemen who went there to Fish, and on becoming acquainted with them, they induced him to preach on the subject during the season of 1739, and he used as his text:

"JOHN. XXI. III.—Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a Fishing."

In 1743 he enlarged his discourse and printed it at Boston,—the charges being paid by the Anglers of Ammauskeeg-Falls.

Although this little pamphlet does not tell us how they Angled or what kind of fish they caught, it does tell us that gentleman went fishing as early as 1739 for sport and diversion, and therefore is much coveted by the collector of angling books.

The following charming poem is printed on the reverse of the last page, and evidently tells of Joseph Seccombe's return to the city after his holiday at Ammauskeeg-Falls.

"Ye happy Fields, unknown to Noise and Strife,
The kind Rewarders of industrious Life;
Ye shady woods where once I us'd to rove,
To think for men, and praise the God above;
Ye murmuring streams that in meanders roll,
The Sweet Composers of the pensive soul,
Farewell,—The City calls me from your Bowers;
Farewell amusing tho'ts and Peaceful Hours."

Forty years elapsed before our next sporting book appeared, this being a short treatise on shooting entitled "THE SPORTSMAN'S COMPANION, or An Essay on Shooting . . . directions to Gentlemen for the treatment and breaking their own Pointers and Spaniels, and the necessary precau-

tions, to guard any accidents that attend this pleasant diversion. . . . By A Gentleman, who has made Shooting his favourite amusement upwards of twenty-six years in Great Britain, Ireland, and North America.

New York: Robertson, Mills and Hicks. 1783."

This is a small 12mo volume of some eighty-nine pages, and must have been quite popular, as I find a second edition was published at Burlington by J. Neale, in 1791—and still a third edition at Philadelphia about 1793. All these editions are of great interest, and it is almost impossible to find copies of either issue today. My copy of this quaint little volume, is the one bearing the Burlington imprint, and is bound in the original sheepskin. On the fly leaf is the name of H. P. Gibson, and on the title-page S. M. Gibson (evidently Father and Son), and on the end fly leaf is written, Geo. Musser, Jnr., His Book, Lancaster, Pa.

The Author in his Address to the Public dedicates the book:—"To my brother Sportsmen in particular, to the Public in General, and to such young gentlemen as are desirous of becoming adepts in the diversions of the Field." And in his Preface he tells us how he regrets that his situation at the time of writing did not admit of his procuring engravings and plates to illustrate the work.

The following paragraph from this book expresses a sentiment to which more than one Sportsman today would subscribe:

"Grouse, or Heath-cock, may be justly deemed the sublimity of shooting, and it is much to be regretted that any

THE
SPORTSMAN'S COMPANION

Fuller & Gibson

ESSAY ON SHOOTING:

Illustrating in what manner to fire at
Birds of Game, in various directions and
positions.—AND,

*Directions to gentlemen for the treatment
and breaking their own Falcons and
Spaniels, and the necessary precau-
tions, to guard against many
accidents that attend this
pleasant diversion:*

WITH

SEVERAL OTHER USEFUL AND INTEREST-
ING PARTICULARS RELATIVE THERETO.

BY A GENTLEMAN,

Who has made shooting his favorite amuse-
ment upwards of twenty-six years, in Great-
Britain, Ireland, and North-America.

Second Edition.

BURLINGTON: Printed by HARRIS REALE.
MDCCLXXI.

should have access to this diversion, but such as are at least competent judges of so very Majestical an amusement."

That the Author was a practical shot himself can be seen from this anecdote:

"I was once on the Bushy Plains, Long Island, in company with two Gentlemen, we fell in with a pack of Grouse, or Heath-hens, and had some shots; as we turned our backs, and were quitting the ground, I heard a bird rising behind me; I turned quickly about, and, notwithstanding it flew at a great distance, I covered him and fired; he immediately towered high in the air, and, after crossing a large wood at a considerable distance, disappeared. I insisted upon my hitting him, from his towering so very high: The other Gentlemen laughed, and said it was impossible from the distance I was at when I fired, that the bird was only frightened. I begged, however, that they would stay for me, and that I would go back after him, and convince myself, if possible. . . . I took a boy that saw the bird's flight, and one of the dogs, and after going nigh half a mile, and through a large piece of wood, the dog found my bird under our feet, lying stone dead upon his back. I came back with him in great triumph, showing him to the company, but upon examining could not find any marks of shot; this renewed the laugh against me; but the bird being quite warm, I was fully convinced it was the same I fired at:— We brought it to our rendezvous and plucked him with the utmost care, but could find no impression of shot; at last after many searches, I discovered that a single grain of shot

had carried the end of a pin-feather through the spine, and the other end in the mouth of the wound, which prevented our seeing it before."

The following chapter headings give a resumé of the contents and show that the author had a really good grasp of his subject.

- Chapt. 1. Of the Choice of Pointer Pups, Training and keeping them in good health.
2. Choice of your Gun, Powder and Shot.
3. Taking aim in various directions, and first of the Grouse.
4. Of Partridge, Quail, Marking in your Game, with some interesting digressions, and other matters.
5. Of Shooting Parties, and other matters relative thereto.
6. Of improsperous days for Shooting, with instances quoted.
7. Of Woodcocks.
8. Of Snipe.
9. Of intimidating or cowing Dogs, with a glaring instance—better treatment recommended.
10. Shooting apparatus recommended; method of loading, and precaution to be used in returning home.
11. Of Spaniels in General.
12. Of stealing Game Dogs, with a Dialogue.

In 1820 C. S. RAFINESQUE published his "ICHTHYOLOGIA OHIENSIS, or Natural History of the Fishes inhabiting the River Ohio and its tributary streams." It is in no sense a Sporting book or even a book on Angling, but a scientific treatise on American Fish.

Rafinesque and other scientists had previously contributed articles on the fish of North America to various periodicals, but this was the first separate work to be published on the subject, and as such is much sought for by angling collectors. An excessively rare work published at Lexington, Kentucky in 1820, few copies are known to exist and most of these are in Public Institutions.

The work was dedicated to Prof. Samuel L. Mitchill and C. A. Le Scur, his fellow-labourers in the same field of Science. The copy I have before me is a most interesting one, being the *Dedication Copy*, and written on the title-page in the autograph of Prof. Mitchill is the following inscription:—

"Sam L. Mitchill received from the Author,
Feb. 6th, 1821"

It was not until 1827 that we got another book on Sport, a period of forty-seven years after *The Sportsman's Companion*. This volume was entitled—"*THE AMERICAN SHOOTER'S MANUAL*, comprising such plain and simple rules, as are necessary to introduce the inexperienced into a full knowledge of all that relates to the Dog, and the correct use of the Gun; also a description of the Game

of this Country. By a Gentleman of Philadelphia County. 12mo, Philadelphia: 1827." A very practical book on Shooting, the early part of which is devoted to the various breeds of dogs in the field, it describes their breeding and breaking, also the diseases to which they are liable with the remedies in favour at the time, and provides a contrast for the present day sportsman between the methods he employs and those of his forefathers.

Other chapters deal with the various kinds of game, the districts in which it occurs and the methods of killing it, also the gun and the sporting powders of the time are described in detail.

I quote the following paragraph from the Manual as an amusing example of the author's style:

"A story is told of two persons shooting together, when one of them, exhibiting in this way, put several shots in his friend's arm, who made suitable outcries. In the course of the day the compliment was returned, with interest, by the wounded man:—'You're a pretty fellow,' exclaimed the man last hit, 'to be so vociferous about my shooting you this morning; why d—n me, I have your charge now in my leg;—'very likely,' replied the other coolly, 'but I killed my hare and your bird was missed.'"

The volume was well printed, illustrated with three engraved plates and several woodcuts, and must have been quite popular, as a second edition was published the following year.

"THE FARMER'S, MECHANIC'S AND MANUFACTURER'S

MAGAZINE," a monthly publication, the first number of which was issued in March 1826, was devoted to Agriculture, Horticulture, Botany, Zoology, Domestic and Rural Economy, etc. But in the second number there is a column headed—"Sportsman's Intelligencer," and the following note by the Editor explains this addition:

"In compliance with the wishes of several of our Patrons, we shall, in future devote a portion of our journal to those topics generally classed under the head 'Sporting,' such as the Turf, the Chase, Fowling, and Angling; and if our encouragement is commensurate with our expectations, we shall occasionally give engravings of celebrated racers, dogs, game, etc. The growing taste in this country for these national amusements, will we trust, render our efforts to convey useful information on the subject generally acceptable."

In this number is a description of the race horse, how to train him, etc., and the English Racing Laws. In the following number there is a fine engraving of "American Eclipse" with a description, and his performances, the Union Course Races for May 1826, and an interesting article on The Art of Angling. Each month Sport was featured, describing Fox-hunting, Swimming, Shooting Wild-Fowl, Otter-hunting, and numerous articles reprinted from the best English Sporting periodicals.

Twelve numbers only were published, and the copy I have before me is bound in contemporary quarter calf, with a printed title-page as follows:—

THE FARMER'S, MECHANIC'S, MANUFACTURER'S AND SPORTSMAN'S MAGAZINE. By George Houston, Member of the New York and Paris Linnean Societies: Editor and Proprietor. New York: Printed by Vanderpool and Cole, corner of Pearl and Beekman Street. 1827.

The first two monthly numbers do not contain the word SPORTSMAN in the heading, but numbers three to twelve do. There are three full-page engravings through the volume, a frontispiece of a beautiful specimen of a bank-note engraving, (executed by Messrs. Durand, Wright & Co.), a portrait of "American Eclipse" from a painting by A. Fisher, and a portrait of "Duroc" from a painting by the same artist; also a few woodcuts adorn the text.

The year 1830 gave us three books all of much importance, MEMOIRS OF THE GLOUCESTER FOX HUNTING CLUB near Philadelphia, A HISTORY OF THE SCHUYKILL FISHING COMPANY of the State in Schuylkill, both by William Milnor Jnr, (who was a member of both clubs for many years), and the first volume of THE CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY.

THE MEMOIRS OF THE GLOUCESTER FOX HUNTING CLUB is of especial interest, it being the story of the first organized Fox Hunting Club in America, founded in 1766. The book is written in a most delightful way, describing the mode of hunting, anecdotes of well known sportsmen, some splendid runs, and the hard riding of members of the hunt.

The illustrations in this volume show a view of Gloucester, New Jersey, as frontispiece, and an interesting por-

trait of the celebrated Jonas Cattell—a most extraordinary character. Jonas could never be persuaded to ride a horse, but always hunted on foot, and could run all day without being in any way distressed, invariably being in at the death.

The Schuylkill Fishing Company was founded in 1732, is still in existence, and all the old customs are kept up with great care. It is the oldest Social Society existing in the world today.

William Milnor Jnr. (the author of the History of the Schuylkill Fishing Company) was elected a Member in 1816 and for a number of years acted as secretary. He was Member of Congress from 1812 to 1820, and in 1829 was elected Mayor of Philadelphia.

In May 1833 he retired from the Schuylkill Fishing Company and in the following letter to the Governor he tendered his resignation.

Philadelphia, May 1st, 1833.

Gentlemen:

In retiring from the Schuylkill Fishing Company, to which I have been attached for the last seventeen years, with recollections of many delightful pastimes in the waters and on the banks of the Schuylkill with fellow members and friends, I feel it my duty to leave with you to be deposited in the Archives of State my Manuscript of its History as published in 1830. Desirous of rendering it complete for the Century, I have continued the account to the day of the Centennial Celebration, inclusive, and with some dili-

gence and care, have prepared a chronological list of members from the foundation of the Company to the above period.

This Manuscript you will also please accept as an accompanying deposit which may be of interest to Members and their successors; with a desire it may be printed or permission given to its compiler to do so whenever it may be deemed expedient to complete the History.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM MILNOR, JNR.

A reprint of Mr. Milnor's history was published by the Members in 1889. A committee was appointed and the History was continued up to the year 1888.

The brothers J. and T. Doughty, of Philadelphia commenced to publish their "CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY AND AMERICAN RURAL SPORTS," in monthly numbers first, and afterwards in three volumes, these dated respectively 1830, 1832, and 1833.

This was a very fine piece of work, the volumes being handsome quartos in size, very well printed and embellished with 56 plates—54 of which were in colour.

The articles were well written and some of the descriptions of hunting the various animals, are masterpieces of their kind—giving a splendid contemporary portrait of the American Sportsman. The illustrations are of great interest; the title-pages engraved by Doughty are superb speci-

THE
(CABINET)
Natural History
American Rural Sports
with
ILLUSTRATIONS
Vol.



(Philadelphia Published by)
J. M. D. Knight

mens of the engravers art, each having a charming vignette of a Shooting Scene in the centre.

The coloured plates (54 in number) are important—being the first coloured sporting prints made in America. There is only one earlier American book with coloured plates that I know of, and that is a treatise on Medical Botany—published in Philadelphia in 1817. Many of these coloured plates of animals and birds are charming, the colouring is soft, correct as to details, and all are well drawn. The two uncoloured plates represent Foxhunting: “Breaking Cover” and “Death of the Fox.”

“THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES,” founded in December 1831, and edited by William T. Porter, was a weekly paper devoted to The Turf, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage, and was contributed to by the best writers of the day. It is a disputed point as to when the first number was really published, as nothing earlier than Number 7 of Vol. 5, 1835, seems to be known. William Porter, in volume ten of the Turf Register advertises The Spirit of the Times as follows:

“This well known weekly publication, which was established in 1831 by its present editor, in the City of New York, has now reach its tenth volume. It is a sheet of the very largest class, containing twelve imperial quarto pages, printed on linen paper of the finest texture and on new type. It is embellished with the largest and most highly finished Engravings on steel, ever issued by a periodical in the United States.”

This periodical was very popular and had a great num-

ber of subscribers. There were interesting descriptions of Races, (many of which were written by Porter himself) pedigrees and performances of well known horses, and—beginning with Vol. 9—a series of beautifully engraved portraits of celebrated horses illustrated the various volumes, forming an American Sporting Gallery. The office of "The Spirit" was the rendezvous of the best known sportsmen and writers on sport, who would meet here and discuss the sporting events of the day.

In 1833 the first AMERICAN STUD BOOK was published. Its author, Patrick Nisbett Edgar, spent more than eighteen years collecting the material for this work. When volume one was issued it must have been a financial failure as no further volume appeared. The volume was entitled as follows—"THE AMERICAN RACE-TURF REGISTER, SPORTSMAN'S HERALD, AND GENERAL STUD BOOK." Containing the Pedigrees of the most celebrated Horses, Mares and Geldings, that have distinguished themselves as Racers on The American Turf. . . . Vol. 1. By Patrick Nisbett Edgar. New York: Press of Henry Mason, 75 Maiden Lane. 1833."

This was the first Stud Book published in America. Its author devoted eighteen years to travelling in various sections of the United States, and in carrying on an extensive correspondence with gentlemen in this country as well as in Europe. He had access to the books, papers, memoranda, newspapers, etc. of upwards of eight hundred gentlemen now deceased through the kindness of their families.

In his introduction he speaks of a second edition, that would correct errors, also of a second volume to be published at a later period. Neither a second edition of volume one or volume two were ever issued, and I do not think that even sufficient support was forthcoming to pay for the first.

In volume 5—page 242, of "The American Turf Register" is a review of Edgar's Stud Book by Judge G. Duval who was considered quite an authority on races and race-horses of olden time. The review on the whole was favourable and he says in part—"I have perused Mr. Edgar's Stud Book, and think it a valuable compilation, I discovered a few errors, and have suggested the corrections. . . . They are trivial, and hardly worth attention: but as accuracy is a principal object in the publication of the work, they may be corrected in the second volume without labour or difficulty." The Sportsmen of the day, although they realized what Mr. Edgar had done for the good of Sport, gave very little practical support to his efforts. In June 1839 (three years after its publication) the following notice appeared—

MR. EDGAR'S STUD BOOK.—At a Meeting of the Raleigh (N. C.) Jockey Club, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published in the "Spirit of the Times" and "The Turf Register."

"Whereas it is known to the American Breeders of the Blood Horse, that Sir Patrick N. Edgar, of Lynesville, N.C. has devoted a large portion of a long life to the collection and compilation of pedigrees of American bred stock, trac-

ing and connecting them properly, and authentically with their distant ancestry; and whereas, it is further known, that in the laudable attempt to publish the same as an American Stud Book, the Author has not only incurred loss and disappointment, even with the first volume, greatly jeopardising the whole collection, without the immediate aid and action of all interested—therefore resolved that this Club purchase of Sir Patrick N. Edgar, thirty copies of the first volume, and that they be ordered immediately, and that the Treasurer is hereby directed to pay for the same out of the Funds of the Association.

“Resolved further, that this Club shall subscribe for thirty copies of the second vol. of the said work, and that the Secretary forward a copy of the foregoing proceedings to Sir Patrick.”

The Editor is pleased to add that resolutions of a similar character have been adopted by the Cincinnati and other Jockey Clubs.

This support however came too late and no other volume was ever published. Mr. Edgar had all the material ready for a second volume, but embittered and discouraged, he destroyed the manuscript, and much valuable information has been lost to us for ever.

The same year was published at Boston “NATURAL HISTORY OF THE FISHES OF MASSACHUSETTES, embracing a Practical Essay on Angling. By Jerome V. C. Smith, M.D. Boston: Allen and Ticknor. 1833.”

The author was Quarantine Doctor at the Port of Bos-

ton, and resided for several years on a small island in Boston Harbour, wherefore, he says in his Preface, he had daily opportunities of examining a large portion of the species described in these pages.

The first part of this volume describes the various kinds of fish found in the waters along the coast of Massachusetts, with chapters on The Importance of The Fisheries, Anatomy and Physiology of Fishes, and their Classification. The work is illustrated throughout the text with woodcuts, but the author was not well pleased with their execution, for he says:

"With respect to the engravings, they are far short, in many instances, of what was anticipated. Some of them are beautifully and accurately executed; but others are miserable caricatures. The Artist was young and inexperienced, —and when he would have willingly have made a second drawing, the press could not be kept in waiting."

There are many interesting stories throughout the volume; some of them (relating to sharks) are most thrilling.

The second part of the volume is of the greatest importance. It has a separate title, as follows: "ON TROUT, interspersed with remarks on the Theory and Practice of Angling." This is the first practical treatise on American angling and describes the various species of trout to be found in the state.

The author says in part—"It is sufficient to know that there are but three principal varieties in this state, Pond-Trout, River or Brook-Trout, and Sea-Trout."

He discourses on rod and tackle, also on flies, and tells where the best fish may be taken.

"THE OLLIO: Collected by a Literary Traveller," is a collection of essays published at Boston in 1833, which contains on page 97 an account of The Principal Matches and Sweepstakes over the Union Course, L. I., and, although this is merely a reprint from the American Turf Register, I think it should be included among early American Sporting Books.

John S. Skinner in 1834 reprinted THE ENGLISH GENERAL STUD BOOK from the second London edition, with an Appendix of American horses. Although not an American book, I include it here, as Mr. Skinner added to it an appendix of horses imported into the United States from England.

In the Turf Register for August 1835, a notice appears as follows: —

"On the presumption that all owners of thoroughbreds would desire to have the means of tracing their stock up through their English Ancestors, to the earliest period of the English Turf, he ventured, at an expense of nearly \$3,000.00, to reprint the English Work, comprising the three volumes, into one, printed in a very superior style, and giving the whole work, well bound, for \$10.00, instead of \$25.00—the cost of the imported copy.

"So far, the demand falls far short of the expense of reprinting, and the American Publisher finds himself in rather a tight place, and without the aid of his old friends,

and the friends of the turf, a heavy loss must be sustained. He presumes then to make this last requisition on the kind disposition of those for whose benefit and gratification it has been his pleasure to exert himself for years; and promises that the name of everyone who shall buy or dispose of even a single copy, shall be registered in the grateful remembrance of their already much obliged and faithful servant."

J. S. SKINNER.

A delightful little volume was printed by J. W. Bell at New York in 1835, comprising a series of essays on sport, and the Author, whoever he may have been, had a fine sense of humour as each essay is a gem.

The title-page reads—"ESSAYS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS. WRITTEN FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF EVERYBODY BY ONE WHO IS CONSIDERED NOBODY." No indication here of sport, but on looking down the List of Contents, we find, Hints to Young Sportsmen respecting Woodcocks, Hints to Young Sportsmen respecting Ruffed Grouse, Reminiscences of an Old Setter, A Discourse against Laziness in Sportsmen, etc. The first essay in the book is entitled "Sportsmen." The Author divides them into three distinct classes, with the following titles, viz.:—The Vagabond Sportsman; The Dandy Sportsman; and The True Sportsman.

He goes on to describe the various classes at some length, and of the true sportsman, he says, "The true sportsman is confined to no particular rank in society, but may be found in the lowest as well as in the highest circles. He hunts, not,

ESSAYS
ON
VARIOUS SUBJECTS.
WRITTEN FOR THE AMUSEMENT
OF
EVERYBODY,
BY
ONE WHO IS CONSIDERED
NOBODY.

"Vivre sans peur."

"My son," said the Quaker, "when thou see'st a closed bag containing many things, be not hasty in deciding on their qualities. Open it, and examine for thyself: thou mayest then be enabled to form a just opinion."

Anonymous.



NEW YORK:
PRINTED BY J. W. BELL, 17 ANN-STREET, NEAR BROADWAY.

1832.

like the vagabond, because he is averse to all regular employment; nor like the dandy because he wishes to be fashionable; but because he has an innate and ardent love of healthful exercise, and, the most exhilarating of all amusements, the Sports of the Field.

"The true sportsman is, in all essential points, a philosopher—temperate, cool, calculating and observing. He possesses a sound mind in a sound body. The same discriminating judgment which he exhibits in the ordinary affairs of life, he carries with him into the field; and is guided more by his own experience than the information or opinions of others—he can bear fatigue without complaining, and endure privations without fainting under them.

"Let us, now, to use the language of the inspired owner of seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, hear the conclusion of the whole matter; which is—that although the portrait of a true sportsman, (roughly sketched even as this is, by a self-taught artist,) excites our admiration, it must be confessed that in the degenerate days of eighteen hundred and thirty-four, the original, like the roc of Sinbad the Sailor, is somewhat a *rara avis* in terra."

"THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE," edited by William F. Burton, was first published in July 1837. It ran under this title until the fourth volume was issued and then the title was changed to BURTON'S MAGAZINE.

I have volume two of the GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE from January to June 1838 in the Original Monthly Numbers, and from the covers one would expect to find much

relating to sport, as the design is distinctly a sporting one. In the centre is a circular design showing Yachting, Horse Racing, Trotting and Rowing, and in compartments on either side are a Sportsman with Gun and Pointer, A Lady and Gentleman at Archery and other emblems of sport, the whole surmounted by the American Eagle holding the Declaration of Independence. There is very little relating to Sport in these numbers, in the February Number there is a fine sporting song printed with the music, entitled "Away to the Stubbles, Away," composed by J. Blewitt, and in the March Number there is a most interesting article on the Speed of the Racer, comparing the relative merits of English and American horses, and finishing with a description of the great race between Eclipse and Henry, also that between Mingo, Lady Clifden, Fanny Wyatt, and Picton. The following is a description of the race:

"The great race between Eclipse and Henry, on the 18th of May, 1823, stands first in American annals of racing. The time of one of the heats has never been beaten, but the race on Union Course, at New York, November 3d, 1837, between Mingo, Lady Clifden, Fanny Wyatt, and Picton, must, considered as a whole, be pronounced to be the fastest four-mile day that ever occurred upon any race course in the world. The first heat, between Eclipse and Henry was

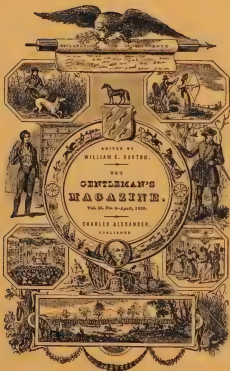
run in 7 min. 37 secs.

Henry winning the heat.

The second heat, won by Eclipse, in 7 min. 49 secs.

The third heat, won by Eclipse, in 8 min. 24 secs.

Making for the twelve miles 23 min. 50 secs.



| | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------|-------|
| The first heat between Mingo, Lady Cliffden, Fanny Wyatt, and Picton, was won by Picton, in | | | 7 min. 44 | secs. |
| The second heat, won by Lady Cliffden, in | | | 7 min. 43½ | secs. |
| The Third heat, won by Lady Cliffden, in | | | 7 min. 56½ | secs. |
| Making for the twelve miles | | | 23 min. 24 | secs. |

"Fanny Wyatt came in second in each of the last two heats; Mingo was pulled up dead lame. This last horse has been victorious in several of the severest trials of speed and bottom.

The English racing calendars have nothing that can beat the above displays. The most extraordinary instance on record of the stoutness and speed of the English racer, is the performance of a horse named Quibbler, belonging to a Mr. Hull; this fine animal once ran twenty-three miles round the flat at Newmarket, in fifty-seven minutes and ten seconds."

A practical little volume on Fishing, Fowling, and Hunting by William H. Schreiner, issued at Philadelphia in 1841, is another interesting book, as it was specially written to be applicable to this country. Its full title is as follows:—

"SCHREINER'S SPORTING MANUAL, A Complete Treatise on Fishing, Fowling, and Hunting, as applicable to this country; With full instructions for the Management of the Dog."

Part one is devoted entirely to fishing, and the first four

chapters describe the different kinds of tackle used for the various species of fish—artificial flies and a variety of bait, also a full discussion on the fish themselves and methods used in killing them.

The second part describes shooting;—Duck Shooting, Dogs, The Pheasant, Snipe, and Woodcock. Finally there is a summary of Fishing and Fowling Tackle. The whole is well illustrated with 23 wood engravings. Mr. Schreiner recommends purchasing your tackle from The Fishing, Fowling and General Sporting Tackle Store and Manufactory—26 South Third Street, Philadelphia.

William P. Hawes, better known as J. Cypress Jr., was a constant contributor to "The Spirit of the Times" and "The American Turf Register." He was born in New York on the 4th of February, 1803, and in due course entered Columbia, on August 7, 1821, was admitted Bachelor of Arts, and the following year, Master of Arts in the same institution. He studied law under John Anthon, Esq., a celebrated member of the New York Bar, and was successively admitted Attorney in August, 1824, Solicitor in March, 1826, Counsellor in the Supreme Court in May, 1828, and in the Court of Chancery in May, 1830. His literary career began about the year 1827, and he contributed articles on sport and politics to the various magazines and papers of the time, until his death in 1841. In 1842, Frank Forester (his friend of many years) collected his Miscellaneous Writings and published them in two volumes, preceding it with a splendid sketch of his life.

The volumes were entitled "SPORTING SCENES AND SUNDRY SKETCHES; Being the Miscellaneous Writings of J. Cypress Jnr," Edited by Frank Forester. 2 vols. These are illustrated with several charming engravings of sporting scenes, and contain his Fire Island-ana; or a week at the Fire Islands, in chapter five of which is his famous "Mermaid Story," the most amusing thing he wrote.

Controversy concerning the Genera, etc., of Quail and Partridge, some Observations concerning Quail, Duck Shooting and numerous other articles were collected and printed in these volumes.

This is the last book published before 1844. In the following year Frank Forester's first sporting book appeared, ushering in a second period in American Sporting Literature.

EARLY AMERICAN SPORTING BOOKS HAS BEEN PRINTED
BY EUGENE V. CONNETT AT THE DERRYDALE PRESS, IN
DECEMBER MCMXXVIII.

DERRYDALE PRESS BOOKS ON SPORT

BOOKS ON EARLY AMERICAN SPORT

EARLY AMERICAN SPORTING BOOKS, 1734-1844, by ERNEST R. GEE. Illustrated with portraits and reproductions of wrappers, pages, etc. An invaluable book for collectors and dealers; intensely interesting to sportsmen and casual readers.....\$7.50

THE MEMOIRS OF THE GLOUCESTER FOX HUNTING CLUB, NEAR PHILADELPHIA. Privately printed for ERNEST R. GEE. Octavo, pink boards with pasted labels. Illustrated. 375 copies on Van Gelder Book Paper. This is the record of the earliest fox hunting club in America, founded 1766. This is the first volume of a set of Early American Sporting Books \$7.50

THE AMERICAN SHOOTER'S MANUAL, by a Gentleman of Philadelphia County, 1827. Illustrated with reproductions of old sporting plates printed on Japanese tissue and tipped into the book. One of the earliest American books on shooting and dogs. 375 copies on Van Gelder Book paper, green boards with pasted labels. This is the second volume of a set of Early American Sporting Books privately printed for ERNEST R. GEE.
\$10.00

TROUTING ALONG THE CATARAUGUS, by Frank Forester. Privately printed for The Anglers' Club of New York. With a Foreword by Harry Worcester Smith, Esq. and a photographure frontispiece portrait by Gordon Ross. 425 copies printed on Umbria handmade paper in large type. Square octavo, boards with imported batik paper and pasted labels.

Decorations consist of typographic borders and initials made up of tiny silhouette trout flies. A very beautiful book, and a first edition (this story never having appeared by itself in book form) \$10.00

EARLY AMERICAN HUNTERS; being stories from THE CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY AND AMERICAN RURAL SPORT. Published at Philadelphia in 1830. "The Cabinet" contained the first coloured prints on sport ever done in America. One of these has been beautifully reproduced in hand-coloured photographure as a frontispiece. Octavo, brown boards with pasted labels. This book contains three stories of panther and wolf hunting in the mountains of the Delaware River Valley, which occurred about 1815. 375 copies on fine rag paper \$6.50

Please add 3 cents for postage on above books.

NOTE: This series of reprints of early American sporting books will be added to continually. Kindly ask to be put on our mailing list if you are interested in them.

BOOKS ON HUNTING

HOUNDS AND HUNTING THROUGH THE AGES, by Joseph B. Thomas, M.F.H. Large quarto with coloured plates and many other illustrations. An unusually handsome volume. This book will be the standard American work on hounds and hunting. It covers not only the history of hunting from the earliest times, but discusses fully the modern sport from every point of view, with particular attention to hounds and hunting in America. First edition limited to 750 copies, printed on Aurelian paper, bound in red cloth with title and foxhound border stamped in gold. \$27.50
50 numbered and autographed copies on Van Gelder paper, and bound in full turkey morocco leather.....Out of print

Postage 50 cents.

THE SPORTING WORKS OF SOMERVILLE AND ROSE. The Hitchcock Edition. Privately printed by The Derrydale Press. With a Foreword by Harry Worcester Smith, Esq. Fully illustrated by Miss E. GE Somerville. 500 sets of seven volumes, each set autographed by Miss Somerville. Printed on Dacian rag paper. Octavo, green cloth with gold stamped black leather labels and coats of arms stamped in gold. Miss Somerville has dedicated this beautiful edition to Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock. It is an unusually desirable set, which has received very favorable reviews. \$50.00

Postage 70 cents.

HELL FOR LEATHER. Three delightful old English hunting poems, with three hand-coloured copper plate sporting prints. A truly beautiful book, 350 copies on Little Chart English hand-made paper. Title page in colour. Brown boards with label and back stamped in gold. \$7.50

Postage 8 cents.

AN ANGLING PRINT

A TIGHT LINE. This is the title of an Angling Print published by Ernest R. Gee, who *owns* the original old English painting from which the plate was made. The print is hand coloured, and the plate measures $8\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It is printed on imported hand-made paper, with large margins. This is the first print of the painting.

The edition is limited to 120 impressions. \$15.00

Postage 10 cents.

A DOG BOOK

THE DALMATIAN, by Franklin J. Willock. Privately printed for Ernest R. Gee. Octavo, white boards with pictorial design. Frontispiece. 200 copies on fine rag paper. The only book devoted to the Dalmatian dog. \$6.00

Postage 8 cents.

BOOKS ON ANGLING

THE SPICKLEFISHMERMAN AND OTHERS, by Frederick White. Illustrated with eleven drawings by A. B. Frost, Oliver Kemp and Gordon Stevenson.

Dr. Henry Van Dyle says:

"This is a capital collection of well told tales of unusual, exciting, and one might almost say, marvellous experiences in the practice of the apostolic vocation of fishing. They are full of good humour and common sense. They are easy to read, and not unprofitable. The book is full of pleasant surprises, and to betray them in a review would be to rob the reader of half his joy."

740 copies on Louvain paper, bound in fancy boards with pasted label and stamped in gold on back \$5.50

35 copies on handmade paper, and autographed by the author . . . \$15.00

Postage 8 cents.

AMERICAN TROUT STREAMS, by Henry A. Ingraham. Privately printed for The Anglers' Club of New York. Illustrated with maps and plates of stream insects.

150 copies on Fabriano handmade paper, tall octavo in green boards with pasted labels, and 350 copies on antique paper Out of print.

A COLOUR PLATE SHOOTING BOOK

FEATHERED GAME—FROM A SPORTING JOURNAL, by Eugene V. Connell. Illustrated from water-colour paintings by Dr. Edgar Burke. Beautiful coloured plates of ten of the most important American game birds, with extracts from a sporting diary and accurate life-histories of the birds. Frontispiece a copper-plate reproduction of the water-colour title page of Volume II of the diaries. (These diaries are records of sport covering twelve years in the field, running into three volumes of MSS. with several hundred original water-colours painted directly on their pages. They have been so greatly admired by friends of the author that in response so many requests the present volume is being printed.)

400 copies on special rag paper, bound in fancy boards with colour-plate label and back stamped in gold. \$25.00

50 large paper copies with *hand coloured* frontispiece, autographed by the author and the artist. \$50.00

Note: Due to the technical problems involved in reproducing the paintings of the birds on full colours on antique paper, the publication of this book will be delayed. Advance subscriptions are being accepted at the above prices, although it may be necessary to increase the prices on orders taken after publication.

A BOOK OF OLD NEW YORK

MEMORIES OF MANHATTAN IN THE SIXTIES AND SEVENTIES, by Charles Townsend Harris. Illustrated with 40 reproductions of scenes depicting the *life* of the city (not the usual pictures of buildings). 1000 copies printed on Louvain paper and bound in paper covered boards with cloth back, pasted label, and stamped in gold. Memory-stirring recollections of an old newspaper man, covering almost every phase of life in old New York. "The most accurate book ever written on old New York." . . \$6.00

Postage 8 cents.

A BOOK OF POEMS

ANTIQUES AND AMBER, by Anne Lloyd. 100 poems on antiques and other subjects. A book for slippered ease, in which the flicker of bayberry candles is reflected from old pewter and mahogany. Mrs. Lloyd has not only chosen her subjects happily, but has written of them unaffectedly and charmingly. Bound in paper-covered boards with labels.

| | |
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